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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/590,025

Applicant(s)

BOCK ET AL.

Examiner

Richard R. Green

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF 298)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/21/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Objections***

Claims 1-64 objected to because of the following informalities: In all cases, "cadenza" should read "credenza," as best interpreted by the examiner.

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Quotation marks around "private" should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4-5, 11-15, 18, 35-36, 43, 45, and 50-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US-6056239 (Cantu).

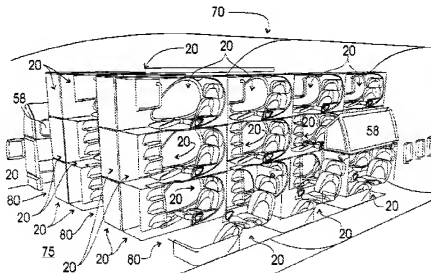


FIG. 4

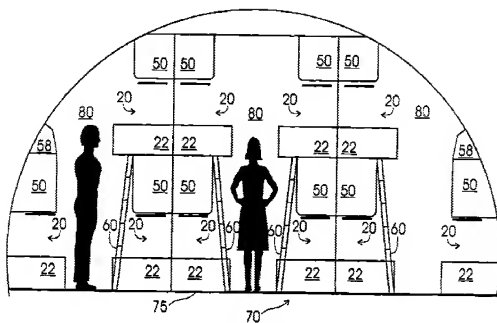


FIG. 13b

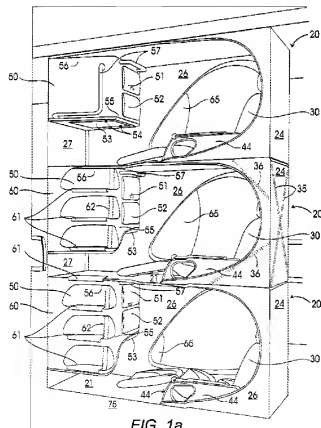


FIG. 1a

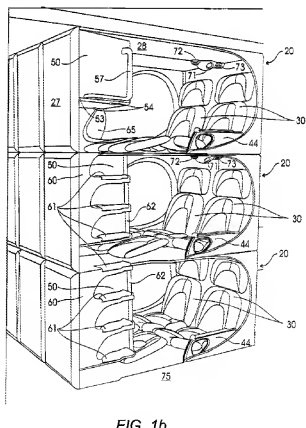


FIG. 1b

Claim 1: Cantu teaches an aircraft cabin that comprises a plurality of "private" passenger compartments for passengers during an aircraft flight (figs. 1a, 4), with each compartment comprising walls (fig. 1a) that define a compartment space and being accessible via a doorway in one of the walls (openings in figs. 1a, 4 considered to be doorways which provide access) and with each compartment at least comprising a chair for a passenger (fig. 1a; col. 5, lines 59-60: "at least one convertible seat-bed unit").

Claim 4: Cantu teaches the cabin defined in claim 1 comprising at least 3 rows of the compartments extending in a length-wise extending direction of the aircraft (figs 4 and 13b), with adjacent rows being separated by length- wise extending aisles (figs. 4, 13b), and with: (a) two outer rows being positioned along opposite sides of the aircraft with the aircraft side walls forming compartment walls (fig. 13b), and (b) at least one internal row being positioned between the outer rows and separated from at least one outer row by a said length-wise extending aisle (fig. 13b).

Claim 5: Cantu teaches the cabin defined in claim 4 wherein the doorway walls define the aisles and the compartments are accessible from the aisles via the doorways (fig. 13b, fig. 4).

Claim 11: Cantu teaches the cabin defined in claim 4 wherein the walls that form the two outer rows of the compartments comprise (a) the aircraft side walls, (b) walls that extend inwardly from the aircraft side walls, and (c) the doorway walls (see fig. 4, near or far ends)

Claim 12: Cantu teaches the cabin defined in claim 4 wherein the or each interior row of the compartments comprises a plurality of pairs of length-wise extending

compartments, with the doorways of the compartments of each pair providing access to the compartments from aisles on opposite sides of the interior row (fig. 4).

Claim 13: Cantu teaches the cabin defined in claim 12 wherein the compartments of at least one pair of compartments is separated by a length-wise extending wall that is a removable wall, whereby the pair of compartments may be converted into a double compartment by removing the removable wall (col. 5, lines 42-52 describe a sliding privacy panel, pointed to by arrows 20 in figure 2. When said privacy walls are opened, inner compartments are considered to form a double compartment).

Claim 14: Cantu teaches the cabin defined in claim 13 wherein each compartment of the at least one of the pair of compartments comprises single beds that can be moved from storage positions to sleep positions (col. 6, lines 4-10 describe beds that fold into chairs, the chair position is considered a storage position of the bed) that are in side-by-side relationship when the compartment is converted into the double compartment so as to form a double bed (see fig. 5a; panels 65 slide to open and form a double bed) without privacy wall.

Claim 15: Cantu teaches the cabin defined in claim 4 comprising a plurality of wardrobes (fig. 1a, items 51 or 52) in walls of the compartments that separate adjacent compartments in the rows of compartments.

Claim 18: Cantu teaches a private passenger compartment for a passenger during an aircraft flight that comprises walls that define a compartment space (fig. 1b), a doorway in one of the walls that enables access to the compartment from an aisle (the opening in fig. 1b is considered to be a doorway that enables access to the

compartment from an aisle), and a chair (fig. 1b) and other basic furniture (fig. 1b, second chair or storage compartments similar to those in fig. 1a but not visible in fig. 1b) located in the compartment space in an interactive way so that the furniture can be selectively arranged in a number of different configurations (seats in fig. 1b are convertible to chairs col. 5, lines 59-60).

Claim 35: Cantu teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 wherein the configurations of the compartment comprise relaxation (when chair in fig. 1b is upright and work table 53 is stored, configuration is considered to comprise a relaxation configuration), work (when table 53 is extended and chair is upright in fig. 1b, configuration is considered to comprise a work configuration), and sleep (when bed in fig. 1b is fully reclined, the configuration is considered to comprise a sleep configuration) configurations.

Claim 36: Cantu teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 wherein, in addition to the chair, the other basic furniture of the compartment comprises any one or more of a table assembly (fig. 1b, item 53), a credenza that houses the table assembly when the table assembly is in a folded position (credenza is considered as storage bin 50, fig. 1b; table assembly is item 53, taught to have foldable legs in col. 5, lines 25-28, and store underneath the storage bin in col. 5, lines 18-22), a seat (fig 1b, second chair), and a bed.

Claim 43: Cantu teaches the compartment defined in claim 36 wherein the table assembly is housed in the credenza so that it can be moved, for example by being swiveled, from a stored position within the credenza to an operative position with a table

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of the table assembly extending horizontally into the compartment proximate the chair (col. 5, lines 20-29 teach that table may slide out from underneath the storage bin to what is considered an operative position in that it is taught to be capable of having objects placed on it, and it is considered to be proximate the chair as seen in fig. 1b, and in col. 5, lines 25-29 which teach that it may be placed on the seat.)

Claim 45: Cantu teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 wherein, in addition to the chair (fig. 1b first chair), the other basic furniture of the compartment comprises any one or more of a work desk, a table assembly (fig. 1b, item 53), a seat, a bed and a visual display system of an entertainment system.

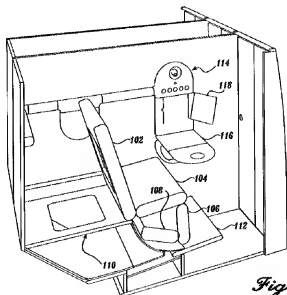
Claim 50: Cantu teaches the compartment defined in claim 45 wherein an interactive combination of the basic furniture in the compartment space comprises: (a) the chair in one corner of the compartment space (fig. 1b, chair adjacent both the far wall and the wall on viewer's right forming a corner around the chair), (b) the seat adjacent one wall of the compartment (fig. 1b, chair nearest viewer, which is adjacent to both wall to viewer's right and the doorway wall), (c) the table assembly movable between a stored position adjacent one wall of the compartment (fig. 1b, item 53 as pictured is stored and adjacent the wall on viewer's left) and an operative position with a table of the table assembly extending horizontally proximate the chair (fig. 1b, item 53 when extended as in col. 5, lines 20-29).

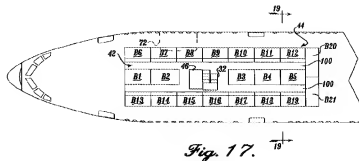
Claim 51: Cantu teaches the compartment defined in claim 45 wherein an interactive combination of the basic furniture in the compartment space comprises: (a) the chair in one corner of the compartment space (fig. 1b, chair adjacent the far wall and

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the wall on viewer's right, forming a corner about the chair) (b) the bed movable between a raised storage position and a lowered sleep position (fig. 1b, chair nearest the viewer is considered to be a bed as described in col. 4, lines 30-36, which is convertible from a lowered sleep position to a raised storage position when it is folded into a chair), (c) the table assembly movable between a stored position adjacent one wall of the compartment and an operative position with a table of the table assembly extending horizontally proximate the chair (item 53 in fig. 1b is a table assembly movable between a stored position adjacent one wall and an operative position as described in the rejection of claim 50).

Claims 1-3, 18-20, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US-6152400 (Sankrithi et al.).

*Fig. 22.*



Claim 1: Sankrithi teaches an aircraft cabin that comprises a plurality of "private" passenger compartments for passengers during an aircraft flight (the B numbered units in fig 17 comprise compartments such as those in fig. 22), with each compartment comprising walls that define a compartment space and being accessible via a doorway in one of the walls (openings in fig. 22 are considered to provide the "convenient side entry ... available for these beds" col. 5, lines 61-62), and with each compartment at least comprising a chair for a passenger (fig. 22).

Claim 2: Sankrithi teaches the cabin defined in claim 1 wherein the compartment walls are at least 1.5 m high. (col. 5, lines 4-7 describe a 64 inch clearance from floor to ceiling, which is more than 1.5 m high, and the walls depicted in fig. 22 can be seen to extend from floor to ceiling)

Claim 3: Sankrithi teaches the cabin defined in claim 2 wherein the compartment walls are at least 1.6 m high (col. 5, lines 4-7 provide 64 inch walls as described in the paragraph above, and 64 inches is greater than 1.6 meters).

Claim 18: Sankrithi teaches a private passenger compartment for a passenger during an aircraft flight that comprises walls that define a compartment space (fig. 22), a doorway in one of the walls that enables access to the compartment from an aisle (fig.

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22, col. 5, lines 61-62, as described regarding claim 1 above), and a chair (fig. 22) and other basic furniture located in the compartment space (items 114, 116 and 118) in an interactive way so that the furniture can be selectively arranged in a number of different configurations (col. 10, lines 28-59 describe multiple configurations of the reclining chair and folding table).

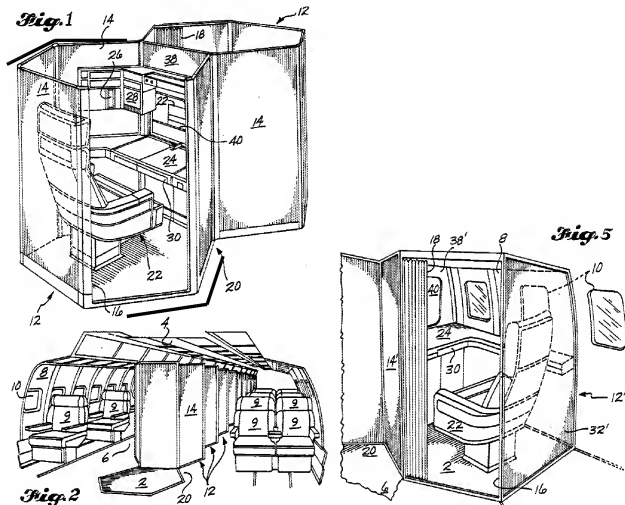
Claim 19: Sankrithi teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 wherein the compartment walls are at least 1.5 m high (col. 5, lines 4-7 teach 64 inches which is greater than 1.5 m, as described regarding claim 2).

Claim 20: Sankrithi teaches the compartment defined in claim 19 wherein the compartment walls are at least 1.6 m high (col. 5, lines 4-7 teach 64 inches which is greater than 1.6 m, as described regarding claim 2).

Claim 35: Sankrithi teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 wherein the configurations of the compartment comprise relaxation (col. 10, lines 28-59 describe configurations of the compartment. when chair is in the partially reclined position, the configuration is considered to comprise a relaxation configuration), work (when tray table 116 is extended, the configuration is considered to comprise a work configuration), and sleep (when bed is fully reclined, the configuration is considered to comprise a sleep configuration) configurations.

Claims 1, 18, 21-23, 27-28, 32, and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US-5024398 (Riedinger et al.).

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Claim 1: Riedinger teaches an aircraft cabin that comprises a plurality of "private" passenger compartments for passengers during an aircraft flight (fig. 2), with each compartment comprising walls (fig. 1, items 14) that define a compartment space (fig. 1) and being accessible via a doorway in one of the walls (visible in fig. 1, col. 5, lines 7-9), and with each compartment at least comprising a chair for a passenger (visible in fig. 1).

Claim 18: Riedinger teaches a private passenger compartment for a passenger during an aircraft flight that comprises walls that define a compartment space (fig. 1), a

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doorway in one of the walls that enables access to the compartment from an aisle (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 7-9), and a chair (visible in fig. 1) and other basic furniture located in the compartment space (fig. 1, item 24) in an interactive way so that the furniture can be selectively arranged in a number of different configurations (col. 7, lines 58-60 teach that the item 24 "pivots into a nonuse position to allow the occupant to stretch out and relax.").

Claim 21: Riedinger teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 including two opposed side walls and two opposed end walls that interconnect the side walls and define the compartment space (fig. 1 teaches walls in a hexagonal structure with opposing side walls and end walls which interconnect and define a compartment space; alternatively, opposing side walls can be considered to comprise adjoining panels as shown with examiner added bold lines in fig. 1, and end panels may be considered as the remaining walls behind the chair and in front of the desk), with the doorway being positioned in one of the side walls and dividing the side wall into two sections, with one section on each side of the doorway (fig. 1, sections of foremost wall to either side of opening 16; alternatively the side wall containing the doorway can be considered to be comprised of the foremost wall and the wall to viewer's right, as described previously and shown by examiner added bold lines, and sections are still on either side of the doorway).

Claim 22: Riedinger teaches the compartment defined in claim 21 wherein the doorway is positioned centrally in the doorway wall (in the first consideration of the

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doorway wall as comprising only the foremost visible panel, the doorway is positioned centrally in the doorway wall, as seen in fig. 1).

Claim 23: Riedinger teaches the compartment defined in claim 21 wherein the sections of the doorway wall are curved, for example by being convex as viewed from the aisle, so that the compartment is wider in these sections of the compartment than in the region of the doorway (in the second consideration of the doorway wall as two-paneled, as shown by examiner added bold lines in fig. 1, the sections of the doorway wall are curved such that the compartment is wider between the ends of the wall than in the region of the doorway).

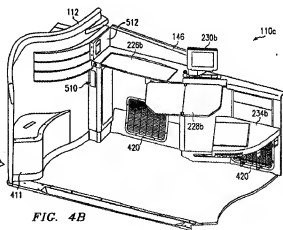
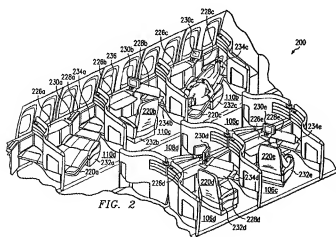
Claim 27: Riedinger teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 including a door assembly for closing the doorway (fig. 5; col. 5, lines 12-13 teach a closable curtain).

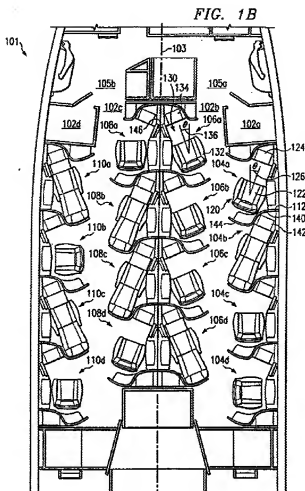
Claim 32: Riedinger teaches the compartment defined in claim 27 wherein the door assembly comprises an upper rail and a curtain supported by the rail (fig. 5 displays a curtain supported by a rail).

Claim 45: Riedinger teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 wherein, in addition to the chair, the other basic furniture of the compartment comprises any one or more of a work desk (fig. 1, counter to left of chair, fig. 5, counter to right of chair), a table assembly (item 24 in front of chair in figs. 1, 5), a seat, a bed and a visual display system of an entertainment system (item 28 in figs. 1, 5 is taught to be a visual display capable of providing entertainment in col. 5, lines 61-68).

Claim 46: Riedinger teaches the compartment defined in claim 45 wherein an interactive combination of the basic furniture in the compartment space comprises: (a) the chair in one corner of the compartment space (it is considered to be in the corner defined by the wall behind it and the wall to the left of the wall behind it), (b) the work desk along at least a part of one wall of the compartment and proximate the chair (the counter to the side of the chair is along a wall and proximate the chair), (c) the table assembly movable between a stored position adjacent one wall of the compartment and an operative position with a table of the table assembly extending horizontally proximate the chair (the table assembly 24 is shown in operative position extending horizontally proximate the chair, which is taught to be pivotable into a nonuse position adjacent a wall in col. 7, lines 58-60).

Claims 1, 4-5, 8-13, 18, 35-36, 43-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB-2362095 (Dryburgh).





Claim 1: Dryburgh teaches an aircraft cabin (fig. 1b, item 101) that comprises a plurality of "private" passenger compartments for passengers during an aircraft flight (such as in figs. 2, 4b), with each compartment comprising walls (fig. 2) that define a compartment space and being accessible via a doorway in one of the walls (the openings between partitions 112 in fig. 1 or 2 are considered as doorways forming the entirety of the wall extending from the end of one partition 112 to the corresponding end of the partition 112 in front of or behind it) and with each compartment at least comprising a chair for a passenger (visible in fig. 2).

Claim 4: Dryburgh teaches the cabin defined in claim 1 comprising at least 3 rows of the compartments extending in a length-wise extending direction of the aircraft (fig. 1), with adjacent rows being separated by length-wise extending aisles (fig. 1), and with: (a) two outer rows being positioned along opposite sides of the aircraft with the aircraft side walls forming compartment walls (fig. 1), and (b) at least one internal row being positioned between the outer rows and separated from at least one outer row by a said length-wise extending aisle (fig. 1).

Claim 5: Dryburgh teaches the cabin defined in claim 4 wherein the doorway walls define the aisles and the compartments are accessible from the aisles via the doorways (doorway wall definition given regarding claim 1, compartments are considered accessible from the aisles via these doorways).

Claim 8: Dryburgh teaches the cabin defined in claim 4 wherein the aisles are curved aisles along the length thereof (curve visible in fig. 1).

Claim 9: Dryburgh teaches the cabin defined in claim 8 wherein the curved aisles are formed by forming the doorway walls as curved walls on both sides of the aisles and by positioning the compartments so that the doorways of the compartments on opposite sides of the aisles are not aligned whereby the doorways face the doorway walls on the opposite sides of the aisles (this doorway alignment is visible in figs. 1 and 2; the aisles are defined by the lack of infringing partitions, which encroach in an offset manner as the cabin narrows at the nose and so the doorway walls as previously defined would curve between the offset partitions and are considered to form the curved aisles).

Claim 10: Dryburgh teaches the cabin defined in claim 9 wherein the compartments are positioned so that the doorways of the compartments on one side of the aisles face the doorway walls on the other side of the aisles, and vice versa (this is visible in figs. 1 and 2).

Claim 11: Dryburgh teaches the cabin defined in claim 4 wherein the walls that form the two outer rows of the compartments comprise (a) the aircraft side walls, (b) walls that extend inwardly from the aircraft side walls, and (c) the doorway walls (this is visible in fig. 1, doorway walls as previously defined).

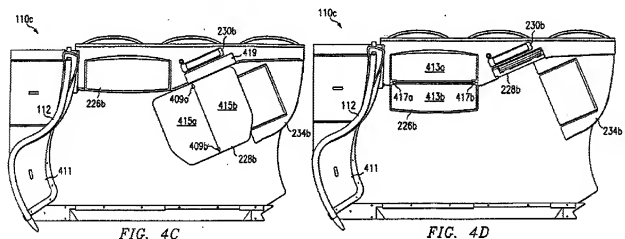
Claim 12: Dryburgh teaches the cabin defined in claim 4 wherein the or each interior row of the compartments comprises a plurality of pairs of length-wise extending compartments, with the doorways of the compartments of each pair providing access to the compartments from aisles on opposite sides of the interior row (visible in fig. 1).

Claim 13: Dryburgh teaches the cabin defined in claim 12 wherein the compartments of at least one pair of compartments is separated by a length-wise extending wall that is a removable wall, whereby the pair of compartments may be converted into a double compartment by removing the removable wall (dividers 146 in fig. 1 are taught to be removable in the paragraph crossing pages 15-16).

Claim 18: Dryburgh teaches a private passenger compartment for a passenger during an aircraft flight (fig. 1 or 2) that comprises walls that define a compartment space (fig. 2), a doorway in one of the walls that enables access to the compartment from an aisle (fig. 1 or 2, space between ends of adjacent parallel partitions 112), and a chair (visible in fig. 1 or 2 as item 120, or alternatively item 124) and other basic

furniture (visible in fig. 4b) located in the compartment space in an interactive way so that the furniture can be selectively arranged in a number of different configurations (different configurations are displayed in fig. 2).

Claim 35: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 wherein the configurations of the compartment comprise relaxation, work, and sleep configurations (in fig. 2, the top middle compartment is configured for work, the top right for sleep, and the bottom right for relaxation).



Claim 36: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 wherein, in addition to the chair (visible in fig. 1 or 2, present but not drawn in figures 4), the other basic furniture of the compartment comprises any one or more of a table assembly (fig. 4c, items 415a and b), a credenza that houses the table assembly when the table assembly is in a folded position (fig. 4c, item 419, alternatively the credenza could be considered the entire back counter), a seat (fig. 4d, item 234b), and a bed.

Claim 43: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 36 wherein the table assembly is housed in the credenza so that it can be moved, for example by being swiveled, from a stored position within the credenza to an operative position with a table

of the table assembly extending horizontally into the compartment proximate the chair (page 16, paragraphs 2 and 3 describe some of the movement capabilities of the table assembly, also implied by the figures 4c and 4d).

Claim 44: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 36 wherein an interactive combination of the furniture in the compartment space comprises: (a) the chair to one side of the doorway (fig. 1, an item 124 or fig. 4b, item 234b, as taught in page 11, last paragraph), (b) the seat to the other side of the doorway (fig. 1, an item 120), (c) the credenza against the wall opposite the doorway (fig. 4d, counter opposite the doorway), and (d) the table assembly housed in the credenza (as in fig. 4d) and movable between a stored position within the credenza and an operative position with a table of the table assembly extending horizontally into a space between the chair and the seat (page 16, or as implied by the figures 4c and 4d).

Claim 45: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 wherein, in addition to the chair (item 234b in figures 4), the other basic furniture of the compartment comprises any one or more of a work desk (fig. 4c, item 226b, additionally fig. 4b, item 411), a table assembly (fig. 4c, items 415a and b), a seat (visible in fig. 1, item 122), a bed (seat 120 in fig. 1, fully reclined as taught in page 11, last sentence) and a visual display system of an entertainment system (fig. 4b, item 230b).

Claim 46: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 45 wherein an interactive combination of the basic furniture in the compartment space comprises: (a) the chair in one corner of the compartment space (fig. 1 or 2, item 124 can be considered a chair in a corner of the compartment space), (b) the work desk along at

least a part of one wall of the compartment (fig. 4b, item 226b) and proximate the chair (as seen in fig. 4b), (c) the table assembly (fig. 4c, items 415a and b) movable between a stored position adjacent one wall of the compartment and an operative position (as described previously and in figures 4) with a table of the table assembly extending horizontally proximate the chair (visible in figures 4).

Claim 47: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 46 comprising the bed movable between a raised storage position and a lowered sleep position on the work desk (when item 411 is considered a work desk, it is taught to be a support for a recliner on page 15, last paragraph, which is taught to be movable between a raised storage position as a chair and a lowered sleep position in page 13, last sentence).

Claim 48: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 46 comprising the seat adjacent at least a part of one wall of the compartment (visible in fig. 1).

Claim 49: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 46 wherein the work desk and the seat are positioned adjacent different walls of the compartment (fig. 4b, work desk 226b is adjacent a different wall than the seat 120 in fig. 1, which is adjacent the work table 411 in fig. 4b).

Claim 50: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 45 wherein an interactive combination of the basic furniture in the compartment space comprises: (a) the chair in one corner of the compartment space (fig. 4c, item 234b), (b) the seat adjacent one wall of the compartment (fig. 1, item 122), (c) the table assembly movable between a stored position adjacent one wall of the compartment and an operative

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position with a table of the table assembly extending horizontally proximate the chair (fig. 4c, items 415a and b, movable as previously described).

Claim 51: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 45 wherein an interactive combination of the basic furniture in the compartment space comprises: (a) the chair in one corner of the compartment space (fig. 4c, item 234b), (b) the bed movable between a raised storage position and a lowered sleep position (recliner 120 in fig. 1, movable between raised and lowered positions as described in page 13, second paragraph. Use as a chair is considered a raised storage position), (c) the table assembly movable between a stored position adjacent one wall of the compartment and an operative position with a table of the table assembly extending horizontally proximate the chair (figures 4, and as previously described).

Claim 52: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 45 wherein an interactive combination of the basic furniture in the compartment space comprises: (a) the chair in one corner of the compartment space (fig. 4c, item 234b, or alternatively fig. 1, item 120), (b) the seat adjacent a wall opposite the chair when the chair is in a takeoff position (fig. 1, item 120 as pointing toward the front or top of page, or alternatively fig. 4c, item 234b), (c) the work desk adjacent a wall that is in a lengthwise-extending direction of the aircraft (fig. 4c, item 226b), (d) the table assembly movable between a stored position adjacent the same wall as the work desk and an operative position with a table of the table assembly extending horizontally in a space between the chair and the seat (fig. 4c and 4d, enclosure for table is between chair 234b and seat 120 which should be adjacent item 411), and (e) the bed (a chair 120 in reclined position as in

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page 13, second paragraph) movable between a raised storage position and a lowered sleep position (page 13, 2nd paragraph) on the work desk (bed is supported by work desk 411 as described in page 15, last paragraph).

Claim 53: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 52 wherein the work desk and the table assembly are located adjacent the wall that is opposite the wall that defines the doorway (work desk 226b and table assembly 228b are located adjacent the wall opposite the wall that defines the doorway, as in fig. 4c).

Claim 54: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 53 wherein the work desk defines a support platform for the bed and supports the bed when the bed is in the sleep position (work desk 411 defines a support platform for recliner 120 when it is fully horizontal as in page 15, last paragraph and is considered to support it in the sleep position).

Claim 55: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claims 54 wherein the bed is stored in the raised position in the compartment space and is moveable down to the lowered sleep position on the platform and is supported by the platform in the lowered position (Bed is stored in the raised position in the compartment space as a chair as visible in fig. 2, items 120, and is movable down to a lowered sleep position as previously described and on page 15, and is supported by work desk 411 when in the sleep position).

Claim 56: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 52 wherein the work desk and the table assembly are positioned in relation to the chair when the table assembly is in the operative position so that the chair can be swiveled between

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positions facing the work desk and the table assembly (when chair is considered to be item 120 from fig. 1, recliner 120 is taught to swivel in positions visible in fig. 2 as described on page 14, last paragraph, and is taught to be capable of facing work desk 226b or table assembly 228b as in page 11, last paragraph).

Claim 57: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 52 wherein a work platform of the work desk is vertically adjustable to accommodate different requirements of different passengers (work platform 413b is considered vertically adjustable in that it hinges about hinges 417a and b to fold on top of 413a as described in page 16, third paragraph, which places the work platform at various vertical positions).

Claim 58: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 57 wherein the stored position of the table assembly is adjacent the work desk (fig. 4c, stored position 419 is adjacent to work desk 226b).

Claim 59: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 57 wherein the stored position of the table assembly is within the space occupied by the work desk (the space occupied by work desk 226b is considered to comprise the counter on the far wall, into which the table assembly 228b is stored, as in fig. 4d).

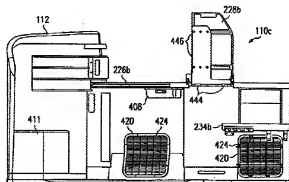
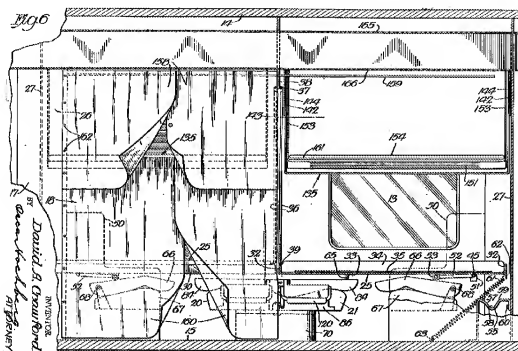


FIG. 4F

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Claims 18, and 36-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US-2612120 (Crawford).



Claim 18: Crawford teaches a private passenger compartment for a passenger that comprises walls that define a compartment space (fig. 6), a doorway in one of the walls that enables access to the compartment from an aisle (fig. 6), and a chair (chair with cushion 67 in fig. 5) and other basic furniture (for example, bed 34, fig. 6) located in the compartment space in an interactive way so that the furniture can be selectively arranged in a number of different configurations (bed is foldable as seen in fig. 6).

Claim 36: Crawford teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 wherein, in addition to the chair (chair with cushion 67, fig. 5), the other basic furniture of the compartment comprises any one or more of a table assembly (one of seat backs 84, fig. 6), or a credenza that houses the table assembly when the table assembly is in a folded position (item 70, fig. 6, is taught to be "for the accommodation of luggage" in col. 6, lines 19-20 and can be considered as a credenza), a seat (item 21, fig. 6), and a bed (item 34, fig. 6).

Claim 37: Crawford teaches the compartment defined in claim 36 wherein the bed is foldable from a storage position in one of the compartment walls (visible in fig. 5) to a sleep position within the compartment (fig. 6).

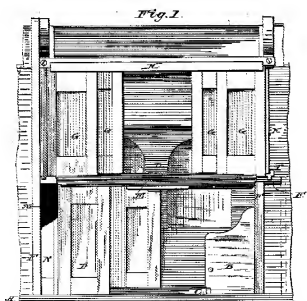
Claim 38: Crawford teaches the compartment defined in claim 37 wherein the chair is foldable from an operative position (fig. 5, chair with cushion 67) in which a person can sit upright in the chair to an inoperative position in which the folded chair defines a support for the bed when the bed is in the sleep position (fig. 6, chair with cushion 67 and back 84 defines a support for the bed when the bed is in the sleep position).

Claim 39: Crawford teaches the compartment defined in claim 38 wherein the chair defines a bedside table when the chair is in the inoperative position. When any of the chairs in fig. 6 are folded flat, they are considered capable of functioning as tables, and could further act as bedside tables in the case where only one bed were unfolded, the folded chair at its inside end would be considered a bedside table.

Claim 40: Crawford teaches the compartment defined in claim 37 wherein the seat (items 21 and 84, fig. 5) is adapted to define a support for the bed when the bed is in the sleep position (seat back 84 folds onto seat 21 to support bed 34 in fig. 6)

Claim 41: Crawford teaches the compartment defined in claim 37 wherein the credenza is adapted to define a support for the bed when the bed is in the sleep position. Credenza 70 in fig. 6 defines a support for bed 34.

Claims 18, 21-23, and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US-245746 (Rodgers).



Claim 18: Rodgers teaches a private passenger compartment for a passenger that comprises walls that define a compartment space (fig. 1), a doorway in one of the walls that enables access to the compartment from an aisle (fig. 1, under letter H), and a chair (item B, fig. 1) and other basic furniture (boxes M, fig. 1) located in the compartment space in an interactive way so that the furniture can be selectively arranged in a number of different configurations (col. 2, lines 83-93 describe formation of a bed).

Claim 21: Rodgers teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 including two opposed side walls (fig. 1, far and near walls) and two opposed end walls (F, fig. 1) that interconnect the side walls and define the compartment space, with the doorway being positioned in one of the side walls (fig. 1) and dividing the side wall into two sections, with one section on each side of the doorway (for example, outside letters G are taught to be stationary in col. 2, lines 94-99, and comprise two sections on either side of doorway defined by the sliding doors labeled with inner letters G).

Claim 22: Rodgers teaches the compartment defined in claim 21 wherein the doorway is positioned centrally in the doorway wall (fig. 1).

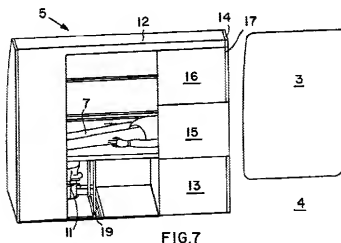
Claim 23: Rodgers teaches the compartment defined in claim 21 wherein the sections of the doorway wall are curved so that the compartment is wider in these sections of the compartment than in the region of the doorway. When sliding doors (inner letters G) are partially open, the doorway wall can be considered curved in that the wall is generally concave in the horizontal plane, and the compartment is narrower in the region of the doorway than in the rest of the compartment.

Claim 27: Rodgers teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 including a door assembly for closing the doorway (page 1, lines 44-59).

Claim 28: Rodgers teaches the compartment defined in claim 27 wherein the door assembly comprises a door mounted for sliding movement from a retracted position within the doorway wall to a closed position in which the door extends across the doorway and closes the compartment (page 1, lines 93-99).

Claim 29: Rodgers teaches the compartment defined in claim 28 wherein the door assembly comprises a pair of doors mounted for sliding movement inwardly towards each other from retracted positions within the sections of the doorway walls that are on opposite sides of the doorway (page 1, lines 93-99; outer doors G are considered the sections of doorway walls).

Claims 18, 36-37 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US-6273366 (Sprenger).



Claim 18: Sprenger teaches a private passenger compartment (fig. 5, item 2) for a passenger during an aircraft flight that comprises walls that define a compartment space, a doorway in one of the walls (fig. 7, doorway below number 12) that enables access to the compartment from an aisle, and a chair (fig. 7, item 11) and other basic furniture (fig. 7, credenza 13) located in the compartment space in an interactive way so that the furniture can be selectively arranged in a number of different configurations (unlabeled bed is taught to fold down from the back wall in col. 7, lines 40-43).

Claim 36: Sprenger teaches the compartment defined in claim 18 wherein, in addition to the chair (fig. 7, item 11) the other basic furniture of the compartment comprises any one or more of a table assembly, a credenza that houses the table assembly when the table assembly is in a folded position, a seat, and a bed (fig. 5, item 10).

Claim 37: Sprenger teaches the compartment defined in claim 36 wherein the bed (fig. 5, item 10) is foldable from a storage position in one of the compartment walls to a sleep position within the compartment (col. 4, lines 12-32).

Claims 1 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by FR-2842497 (Saint-Jalmes) as evidenced by corresponding application US-2005/0001097.

FIG. 2

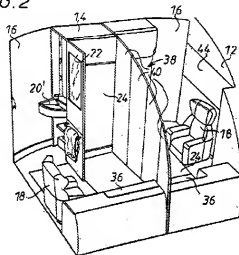
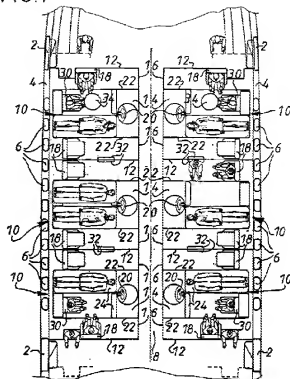


FIG. 1



Claim 1: Saint-Jalmes teaches an aircraft cabin (fig. 1) that comprises a plurality of private passenger compartments (fig. 2) for passengers during an aircraft flight, with each compartment comprising walls that define a compartment space (fig. 2) and being accessible via a doorway (fig. 2, item 16) in one of the walls, and with each compartment at least comprising a chair (fig. 2, item 18) for a passenger.

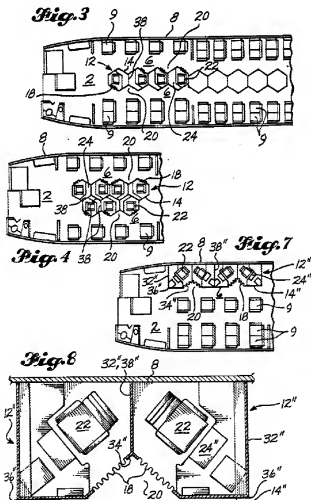
Claim 17: Saint-Jalmes teaches the cabin defined in claim 1 wherein each compartment includes doors (fig. 2, doors 16) for the doorways so that the compartments can be completely enclosed when the doors are closed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riedinger.



Claim 4: Riedinger teaches the cabin defined in claim 1 as described in the rejection of claim 1 over Riedinger, with embodiments with an internal row, and an outer row positioned along the aircraft side wall, and length-wise extending aisles. Riedinger fails to specifically teach all 3 rows of compartments in the same embodiment, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the central row of compartments in fig. 3 with a side row of compartments as in fig. 7 on either side of the central row, for the purpose of adding more office space.

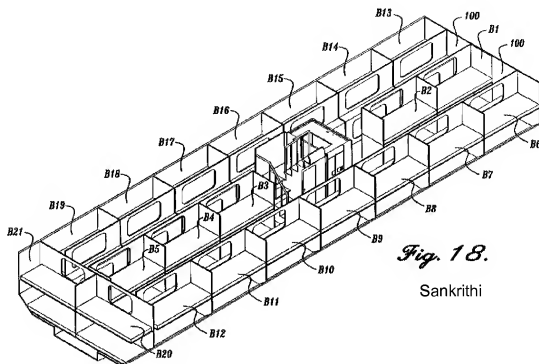
Claim 5: Riedinger teaches the cabin defined in claim 4 wherein the doorway walls define the aisles and the compartments are accessible from the aisles via the doorways (visible in fig. 7).

Claim 6: Riedinger teaches the cabin defined in claim 4 wherein the doorways divide the doorway walls into two sections, with one section on each side of each doorway (visible in fig. 8, doorway pointed to by 18, sections to either side visible to either side).

Claim 7: Riedinger teaches the cabin defined in claim 6 wherein the doorways are positioned centrally in the doorway walls (if doorway walls are considered as solely the panel in which they are placed, the doorway is centrally positioned as in fig. 8).

Claim 8: Riedinger teaches the cabin defined in claim 4 wherein the aisles are curved aisles along the length thereof (curve visible in fig. 3, the fifth compartment from the left is offset, and the aisle is no longer straight at that point).

Claims 4 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saint-Jalmes in view of Sankrithi.



Claim 4: Saint-Jalmes teaches the cabin defined in claim 1, but fails to teach 3 lengthwise extending rows separated by lengthwise extending aisles.

Sankrithi teaches in fig. 18, an arrangement of cabin modules in three lengthwise rows, separated by lengthwise aisles, where the outer rows are positioned along opposite sides of the aircraft, with the aircraft side walls forming compartment walls (as shown by examiner added arrows) and at least one internal row is positioned between the outer rows and is separated from at least one outer row by a lengthwise aisle. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to arrange the modules in the aircraft cabin of Saint-Jalmes in the arrangement of Sankrithi, for the purposes of space efficiency (Sankrithi abstract).

Claim 15: Saint-Jalmes in view of Sankrithi provide the cabin defined in claim 4. Saint-Jalmes teaches a plurality of lavatories in the walls of the compartments that separate adjacent compartments in the rows of compartments (Saint-Jalmes fig. 2 below). Saint-Jalmes further teaches that they may be substituted for other facilities, such as "a storage space, for the personal effects of the passengers traveling in the corresponding cabin module," (as evidenced by page 4, paragraph 62 of corresponding US application 2005/0001097), said storage space for personal effects is considered to be capable of storing clothing, given its size, and is considered to comprise a wardrobe.

Claim 16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saint-Jalmes in view of Sankrithi as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of US-4314733 (Smith).

FIG. 2

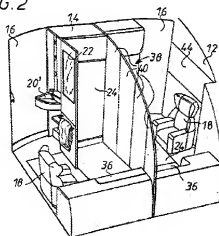
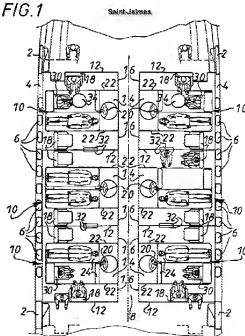
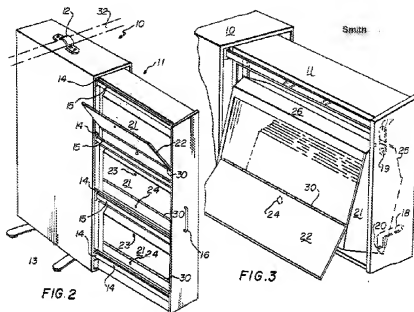


FIG. 1





Claim 16: Saint-Jalmes in view of Sankrithi provide the cabin defined in claim 4 comprising a plurality of service compartments in the walls of the compartments that separate adjacent compartments in the rows of compartments (Saint-Jalmes fig. 2, items 14), and allows that storage areas for personal effects or carts may be substituted for the depicted lavatories and further allows that the location of the lavatory may be moved, but fails to teach that movable wardrobes may be substituted.

Smith teaches a filing cabinet mounted for sliding movement between a storage position and an operative position in which the filing cabinet extends outward. Such a filing cabinet is considered to be capable of storing clothing and personal effects and acting as a wardrobe. In the case where some lavatories in Saint-Jalmes are replaced with the wardrobes of Smith, they would require opening of doors 16 (Saint-Jalmes fig. 2) and when opening as in Smith figs. 2 and 3 would extend into the aisle and be accessible from the aisle.

Claims 24-25, and 30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodgers in view of US 2003/0089269 (Oakley).

Claim 24: Rodgers teaches the compartment defined in claim 21 as described in the 102 rejection of claim 21 over Rodgers, with a sliding door system comprising fixed and sliding doors forming a doorway wall. Rodgers fails to teach windows in the doorway wall.

Oakley teaches sliding doors with windows. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to place windows such as in Oakley in the doors of Rodgers for purposes of viewing. Once placed within all doors (Rodgers fig. 1, doors G), the fixed doors to either side of the doorway would include windows.

Claim 25: The rejection to claim 24 above already provides at least two windows in the doorway wall, with one in each section of the doorway wall.

Claim 30: Rodgers teaches the compartment defined in claim 29 with sliding doors, but fails to teach windows in the doors.

Oakley teaches sliding doors with windows. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to place windows such as in Oakley in the doors of Rodgers for purposes of viewing. Once the windows of Oakley are placed in all doors (Rodgers fig. 1, doors G) of Rodgers, the doors will include transparent windows, and the positioning will be such that the view through the windows

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in the doorway walls (fixed outer doors G) will pass through the windows in the sliding doors (sliding inner doors G) when the doors are fully retracted, and the view will not be obscured.

Claims 26 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodgers in view of Oakley as applied to claims 25 and 30 above, and further in view of US-2001/0022218 (Schlect) and US-6092581 (Andersson).

Claim 26: Rodgers in view of Oakley provide the compartment defined in claim 25, but both fail to teach retractable blinds included in the windows.

Schlecht teaches a window roll-up blind for a vehicle, where the blinds are "virtually completely withdrawn behind the contours of the window" (page 1, paragraph 9) and would not interfere with the sliding motion of the doors in Rodgers. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to place the blinds of Schlecht on the windows of Oakley in the doors (G, fig. 1, Rodgers) of Rodgers, for the purpose of "protection from view" (Andersson col. 1, lines 45-46) as in Andersson.

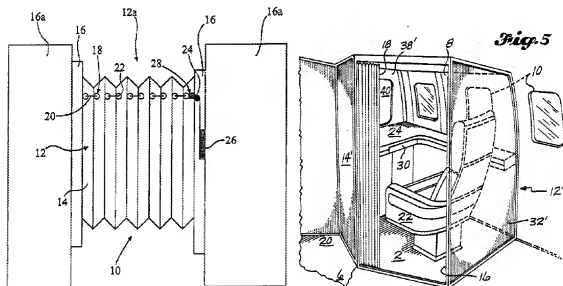
Claim 31: Rodgers in view of Oakley provide the compartment defined in claim 30, but both fail to teach retractable blinds included in the doors that can be closed when the doors are in the closed positions.

Schlecht teaches a window roll-up blind for a vehicle that would have been obvious to place in the windows of Oakley in the doors of Rodgers as described in the rejection to claim 26 above, for the reason given by Andersson and recited in the

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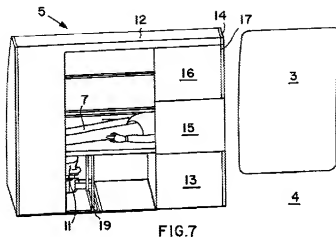
rejection to claim 26 above. Once placed, the blinds can be closed when the doors are in the closed positions.

Claims 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riedinger in view of US-2002/0084042 (Kimmet).



Claim 33: Riedinger teaches the compartment defined in claim 32 with a curtain supported by an upper rail (fig. 5 above to right), but fails to teach that the upper rail is retractable.

Kimmet teaches a curtain for use in closing a door to a cubicle with a retractable upper rail supporting a curtain comprising collapsible panels wherein the rail retracts into the doorway wall (page 1, paragraph 15; figure to left above). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the curtain of Kimmet in the airline cubicle compartment of Riedinger for purposes of security and privacy (Kimmet page 1, paragraphs 6 and 7).



Claim 41: Sprenger teaches the compartment defined in claim 37 (lower fig. 7, compartment 12) with a credenza (lower fig. 7, credenza 13) adapted to define a support for the bed when the bed is in the sleep position (lower fig. 7). Sprenger fails to teach that the credenza houses a table assembly when the table assembly is in the folded position as required by claim 36, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a credenza to store a table assembly, as the credenza in Dryburgh does.

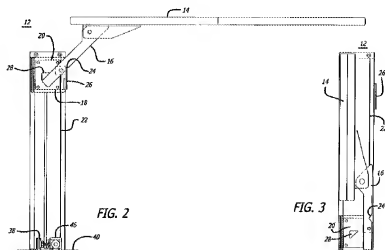
Claim 42: Sprenger teaches the compartment defined in claim 41, wherein a bed folds out from the back wall and is supported by credenza 13, but fails to teach a credenza movable from a raised operative position in which the credenza can be accessed conveniently by a passenger seated in the chair to a lowered bed support position.

Reppas teaches a bed that folds out from a wall (Reppas fig. 7 on top) like in Sprenger and is supported by a credenza (Reppas fig. 7 on top, item 78; col. 3, lines 46-62) when the bed is in the sleep position. Further, when the bed is raised to a stored

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position, the credenza is moved to a raised operative position in which the credenza can be accessed conveniently. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the folding bed support system of Reppas for the folding bed of Sprenger, for the purpose of raising the credenza to a standard or variable height as in Reppas col. 4, lines 64-68.

Claims 60-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dryburgh in view of US-6520091 (Dettmers).



Claim 60: Dryburgh teaches the compartment defined in claim 52 with a table assembly (Dryburgh table assembly 228b, Dryburgh fig. 4c) that retracts from an operative position with a table of the table assembly extending horizontally in a space between the chair and the seat into a stored position adjacent the same wall as a work desk, said table assembly comprising two folding panels. Dryburgh fails to explicitly teach a table pivotally mounted to a support arm which is pivotally mounted to a base member which slides between stored and operative positions.

Dettmers teaches an automatic table assembly comprising:

A base member (18, above Dettmers figures) that can slide between the stored position adjacent the side wall and the operative position between the chair and the seat (transition from Dettmers fig. 3 to Dettmers fig. 2 involves member 18 sliding up track 22 from a stored position to an operative position; col. 2, lines 30-62),

A support arm (16, Dettmers fig. 2) pivotally mounted to the base member (see Dettmers figs. 2, 3) and foldable between the storage position and the operative position (see figs. 2, 3 for folded storage position and unfolded operative position),

And a table pivotally mounted to the support arm (14, Dettmers fig. 2; shown folded about a pivot point in fig. 3).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the table assembly of Dettmers as the table assembly of Dryburgh to assist in retraction and deployment (Dettmers col. 1, lines 27-30). Moreover, when used in this manner, the stored position of the base member is adjacent the same wall as a work desk, and the operative position of the base member is between the chair and the seat.

Claim 61: Dryburgh in view of Dettmers provide the compartment defined in claim 60, wherein the table assembly can be moved from the stored position to the operative position by sliding or otherwise moving the base member outwardly from the stored position, lifting the table upwardly and inwardly into the compartment space and thereby pivoting the support arm upwardly and inwardly into the compartment space until the table is in the horizontal operative position (the transition from the stored position shown

in Dettmers fig. 3 to the operative position in Dettmers fig. 2 requires all of these motions, and so the table assembly is considered capable of movement from the stored position to the operative position in this manner).

Claim 62: Dryburgh in view of Dettmers provide the compartment defined in claim 61 wherein the support arm comprises a table support element that is positioned to support an underside of the table when the table assembly is in the operative position with the table in the horizontal position. The support arm (Dettmers 16) of Dettmers fig. 2 comprises a table support element and is considered in its position to support an underside of the table (Dettmers fig. 2, 16 supports underside of 14) when the table is in the horizontal position.

Claim 63: Dryburgh in view of Dettmers provide the compartment defined in claim 62 wherein the table comprises side wings that can be folded between an inward storage position and an outward operative position. The two halves of Dettmers table 14 can be considered side wings, which are capable of folding between an inward storage position and an outward operative position.

Claim 64: Dryburgh in view of Dettmers provide the compartment defined in claim 63 wherein the base member defines a storage compartment. Storage of Dettmers members 14 and 16 is impossible when base member 18 is in the operative position, so it can be considered to define a storage compartment in that it defines the available space by its degree of extension.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US-5639141 Hanemaayer describes a bed supported by a vertically adjustable table.

US-2003/0025036 Farnsworth describes a movable closet.

US-2205085 (Crawford) describes a railway car with folding beds.

JP 9-202232 describes a compartment with windows on aisle-facing walls.

US-1313531 (Fowler) describes a convertible railway car.

US-6398164 (Fasse) describes a compartment for an aircraft with folding bed/chair arrangements.

US-6209956 (Dryburgh) describes a folding chair for an aircraft

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard R. Green whose telephone number is (571)270-5380. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:00 am - 5:30 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly D. Nguyen can be reached on (571)272-2402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Kimberly D Nguyen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4174

/R. R. G./
Examiner, Art Unit 4174